

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 7568

DEPT PASS IO/SCT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, PARM, AR

SUBJECT: IAEA REQUEST FOR EXPERT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ASSIGNMENT IN ARGENTINA

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED AGENCY LETTER (COPIES POUCHED AMMONS/ERDA AND KRATZER/OES) NOTING THAT FRG EXPERT WHO HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO UNDERTAKE ONE MONTH ASSIGNMENT IN ARGENTINA IS NO RPT NO LONGER AVAILABLE, AND THAT ARGENTINE NATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION HAS REQUESTED SERVICES OF MR. JAMES E. AYER, ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY, AS AN ALTERNATE EXPERT. ASSIGNMENT IS DESCRIBED IN JOB DESCRIPTION ARG/4/31-E, WHICH CALLS FOR AN EXPERT IN DESIGN, COMMISSIONING AND OPERATION OF PLUTONIUM LABORATORIES.

2. SPECIFICALLY, EXPERT WOULD BE EXPECTED TO A) ASSIST IN TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF ALPHA FACILITY FOR FABRICATION OF FUEL RODS CONTAINING PLUTONIUM OXIDE; B) DISCUSS PARTICULARS OF SAFETY REPORT AND ADVISE ON SAFETY MEASURES AND OPERATING STANDARDS; AND C) ADVISE ON TECHNIQUES FOR FABRICATION OF FUEL RODS BASED ON MIXED URANIUM AND PLUTONIUM OXIDES. ASSIGNMENT
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ORIGINALLY WAS FOR THREE MONTHS, BUT WAS SPLIT

INTO THREE ONE MONTH SEGMENTS, FIRST TWO OF WHICH WERE CARRIED OUT BY FRG EXPERT IN 1973 AND 1974.

3. FYI. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT REASONING BEHIND FRG DECLINING TO MAKE AVAILABLE ITS EXPERT FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT, WAS BASED ON SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE TECHNOLOGIES INVOLVED, AND LONDON SUPPLIERS GUIDELINES WHICH CALL FOR RESTRAINT IN TRANSFER OF, INTER ALIA, SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY. IT SHOULD ALSO BE RECALLED THAT IAEA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE AGREED LAST YEAR THAT ANY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY IAEA IN CERTAIN SENSITIVE FIELDS WOULD REQUIRE APPLICATION OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH ASSISTANCE, AND PROJECTS INVOLVING REPROCESSING AND PLUTONIUM LABORATORIES WERE MENTIONED AS EXAMPLES OF ASSISTANCE WHICH SHOULD TRIGGER IAEA SAFEGUARDS. (TWO OR THREE ARGENTINE PROJECTS WERE WITHDRAWN FROM 1976 TA PROGRAM AS RESULT.) AOFREMENTIONED PROJECT IS PART OF A UNDP PROJECT WHICH WAS APPROVED FIVE OR SIX YEARS AGO, AND WHICH IAEA HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTING. AT THAT TIME, THERE WAS LESS CONCERN ABOUT THE NEED FOR SAFEGUARDS REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OR THROUGH IAEA. THIS EXPLAINS WHY THE PROJECT IS STILL "ON THE BOOKS." END FYI.

3. SINCE THIS PROJECT INVOLVES TECHNOLOGIES WHICH ARE SENSITIVE FROM NON-PROLIFERATION STANDPOINT, AND SINCE ARGENTINA IS NOT RPT NOT NPT PARTY, MISSION ASSUMES U.S. WILL ALSO DECLINE TO PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE REQUESTED. PLEASE ADVISE.LABOWITZ

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